



2008 REGIONAL CONFLICT MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE FACT SHEET

Key Messages:

*Fostering Peace and Good Governance by
Advancing African Capacity to Manage
Conflict.*

Funding Level:

US \$ 5.8 million in FY 08

Partners:

Common Market for East and Southern Africa
(COMESA)
Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
Pact Inc.
Search for Common Ground
U.K. Department for International Development (DFID)
Management Systems International (MSI)

Geographic Location:

Mandera Triangle/Somali cluster (Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia
border)
Great Lakes
Karamoja Cluster Region (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, S.
Sudan border)

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PHOTO: Handing Over Weapons.



Program Overview

The Horn of Africa and Great Lakes regions are characterized by failed or weakly governed states. They are therefore increasingly vulnerable to emerging violent ideologies and conflict over access and control of trade in natural resources from extractive industries and livestock. USAID helps promote the creation of a strong regional framework for conflict mitigation, especially to address cross-border security problems and provides technical and financial resources for African partners.

Program Impact

- USAID is helping to build African capacity to manage conflict in the region and supports an early warning system to mitigate conflict. In 2008, IGAD's Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) placed trained field monitors in several locations of the Somali cluster;
- Technical and financial assistance from Pact Inc. has facilitated a detailed assessment of conflict dynamics and interactions with key security sector institutions and peace committees along borders of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. Future activities will enable CEWARN and international and local partners to strengthen communications to improve the efficacy and timeliness of responses and longer-term solutions to conflict.
- Empowering women to mitigate conflict—68 female leaders from Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya formed a peace building network to promote better integration of women leaders in the management of conflicts in the Somali cluster;
- In the Karamoja cluster (Ethiopia-Kenya-Uganda border) rapid response activities in 2008 helped defuse tensions and end spiraling violence by supporting a ceasefire and renewed commitment to a 2005 peace agreement. Important lessons learned will help promote longer-term commitments to these fragile agreements.
- Trading for Peace promotes an understanding of the role of trade in peace building and poverty reduction in the Great Lakes region. A Trade information Desk established at the Kasumbalesa Border Post in the Democratic Republic of Congo will assist cross-border traders with information on the COMESA Simplified Trade Regime, the promotion of intra-COMESA trade, and peace in the region through economic integration.

Program Challenges

Underlying structural problems (drought & famine exacerbated by global warming), and severe infrastructure deficit, combined with their historical marginalization by governments, have prevented sustained progress in ending community vulnerability to conflict. Regional governments are generally committed to implementing best practices in conflict mitigation. The exception involves the disarming of pastoralist communities when governments are unable to provide adequate security and social services. The impact of legislation restricting the freedom of civil society organizations and their ability to operate and seek funding has yet to be seen but will likely add new impediments to development progress needed in the peace and security sector.